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Dr Schirmmacher with Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi of Uganda

Lausanne III Cape Town 2010 Special Reports

TC Executive Chairman, Dr Thomas Schirmmacher reflects on the historic congress held in Cape Town, South Africa 16-25 October 2010 and introduces our special reports

God is on the Move

By Rolf Hille

It was a great joy to meet hundreds of members and friends of TC in Cape Town among the delegates. What great theologians we have in the Global South and what a gift it is to learn from them—some from countries with very few Evangelicals and under persecution, and others from countries with a very high percentage, like Uganda (37%).

I spoke at meetings of the Anglican Community (five archbishops from every continent!) and the World Reformed Fellowship. I also had a meeting with Pentecostal theologians and deep discussions with the observers from WCC and other international bodies, some of them having come out of TC, like ICETE.

The cooperation with Chris Wright and Rosalee Ewell of the Lausanne Theology Working Group working on the final statement was great, as was the cooperation with the Lausanne and WEA leadership, the other WEA commissions (Mission, Religious Liberty, IT) and our initiatives like Micah and IIRF. We distributed thousands of CDs and other material. At the Missions Commissions meeting, my first words were 'We love you!' I see the deep desire of Lausanne and WEA, that theology, mission theology, missions practitioners and initiatives like Micah go hand in hand, which is also a great challenge for theologians worldwide.

For this special issue of TN, I have asked three different people to present their evaluation of Cape Town from totally different perspectives—and asked them not only to sing praises but to be self critical as well: Rolf Hille, former chair of TC, who has been at all Lausanne conferences since 1974, Rosalee Ewell, who has been in the centre of drafting the final statement for the Lausanne Theology Working Group, and John Baxter-Brown, as an observer from WCC.

Thomas Schirmmacher

God is on the move. That means, God can really be experienced. This experience, this feeling, and this commitment characterized the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization at the southern tip of Africa in Cape Town. 'God is not dead. Jesus is alive!' was sung over and over again with great enthusiasm by more than 4,000 evangelical Christians from 197 countries at the Cape of Good Hope.

With this truly international and ecumenical conference, the Lausanne Movement succeeded in connecting a new generation to the new beginning they made 36 years ago in the Swiss city of Lausanne. The vitality of the global Evangelical movement was evident in Cape Town as a great source of strength throughout all Protestant and Anglican churches. The conscious connection to the historically significant first conference on world missions 100 years ago in Edinburgh, Scotland, was certainly a very powerful symbolic gesture. Holding this conference in the year 2010, the perspectives of the Lausanne delegates are connected to continue the legacy of Protestant missionary work on a broad ecumenical level.

The development following the Edinburgh conference of 1910 was dramatic. After a series of productive missionary conferences and the integration of the International Council on Missions in the World Council of Churches (WCC), a rising break with tradition came to a head in the year 1968. At the WCC, socio-political responsibility in the world appeared to replace evangelization. Finally, a moratorium was even placed on the com-

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